Subj: **Va. 1/2d**
Date: 9/30/2003 3:56:05 PM Central Standard Time
From: Vacoinage
To: EricNumis

Mr. Newman,

I guess it is time to give you an update on the research on the Virginia halfpence. If for no other reason than to let you know that I am still pursuing it. I had a chance to view two varieties that Syd Martin had at the ANA in Baltimore. It will require a better look at the C4 convention in Boston, but at a quick look they appear to be unlisted varieties. I tracked down the Vlack listing of the 28L and I am trying to find one of those. I now have quite a few more coins and photos, but the class on digital coin photography at the C4 convention will be a great help. I have set up a method of narrowing down the number of dies to check as you start the process of attribution. If I am able to get to St. Louis someday would it be possible to take photos and get the metrics of your Virginia patterns? I have been compiling a list of all varieties encountered in order to keep track of the rarity ratings and grades. I have thus far found little new information, but I have a few leads and a number of theories that may still yield fruit. By the way you were right research is fun. Thanks for the encouragement.

Alan

Subj: **Re: W. N. Veach -?-**
Date: 11/18/2003 3:30:56 PM Central Standard Time
From: JCSpilman1@comcast.net
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric - -

Many thanks.

I know Alan Anthony - he is a member of one of the numismatic eGroups on Yahoo.

The really hugh problem with the Virginia specimen descriptions - especially the reverses - is that the dies were sunk from a master hub and whether or not a feature can be used for identification is very problematical. Example - Lion "touches upright" - OK but this is a function two things - of how deeply the hub was sunk into a die and how much die maintenance was accomplished (lapping) during the life of the die.

Discussions I have had with Peter Gaspar have indicated that British lapping was done by hand (and apparently sometimes still is) using small abrasive stones about 2.5 inches in length and 0.25 inches square. These could be used without ever removing a die from the screw press! Peter related an incident where a worker at the British mint became so interested in what Peter was discussing that he managed to ruin a die with his stone through inattention to the work!!!

Best regards, and thanks again.

Jim/CNLF

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EricNumis@aol.com wrote:

> Dear Jim: This fellow Veach was enthusiastically promoting Virginia coinage in the past as you mentioned and was disillusioned by the lack of response. He did no more that I know of and dropped off the map.A new researcher, Alan Anthony, 592 Rockbridge Dr., Leesburg VA 20175 (Email: VACOINAGE) has been working on a revision of my work for a year or so. You are free to contact him if you wish as he has improved some of the descriptions and is assembling new images.I hope this is helpful. Eric

Subj: **Re: W. N. Veach -?-**
Date: 11/18/2003 10:11:32 PM Central Standard Time
From: JCSpilman1@comcast.net
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric - -

When you have the opportunity to talk with Peter ask him, please, whether he was ever able to resolve his questions regarding counterpunches. I sent him material but I was never able to ascertain whether he agreed or disagreed I am totally satisfied with my concept of their usage, but apparently Peter has some reservations about the ideas.

On a related subject - have you had the opportunity to examine the planchet feeder designed by Joe Rust at the Gallery Mint? It is a dead ringer for the sketch that you located and that we discussed a number of years ago. Joe is a mechanical genius - a modern day Abel Buell.

Jim/CNLF

==========

EricNumis@aol.com wrote:

> Dear Jim: Peter Gaspar is a close friend of mine and lives only a few blocks away. I will talk to him about it.As to the reverses on the Virginia halfpence they have to be distinguished in some practical way. Certainly the number of strings to the harp are 6, 7 and 8 regardless of the use of a master hub on other portions. I tried to point out other die differences and perhaps you can improve on it. It is not easy. Was the date part of the master hub or not? Regards. Eric

Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 11/19/2003 7:00:16 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: JCSpilman1@comcast.net

Dear Jim: The reverse of the Virginia 1/2 d seems to have a hub which does not include the date, the word VIRGINIA nor the harp strings. See Gaspar and Dwyer's NNM in 1982 illustrations. Accordingly the punches used on the dies and their position seem to be the only basis for die variety determination. I checked this with Gaspar. Now what do you think? Eric

Subj: **Virginia 1/2d Reverses**
Date: 11/19/2003 10:06:56 PM Central Standard Time
From: JCSpilman1@comcast.net
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric - -

You are absolutely correct.

How to tell reverse Virginia dies apart?

On a large computer screen image of the coin, select center points on various prominent locations on the central device. These points will always be identically positioned relative to all other such points on dies on which **this** hub was used - regardless of depth of hub sinking, subsequent lapping of dies during die maintenance, striking pressure during stamping, and coin wear during circulation. **All** of these variables are eliminated in an analysis sketch which is then made using line drawing tools in an imaging software program such as Photoshop. (You can also do it by hand on a large print on a transparent film stock).

Step 1 - Carefully draw lines between these selected center points all the way across the coin and at least 0.5 inch beyond the edge of an image. Construct from four to six lines between selected points. At this stage in the sketch you will have a series of apparently random lines across the coin image. Print this image on a clear film base. Do this for a number of carefully scaled images of different specimens.

Step 2 - Compare these various images by overlay techniques. Forget the coin details at this point - observe **ONLY** the comparative line patterns. If they are **not** identical in position, parallel with each other, equal intersect points and angles, etc. then you **may** have identified similar hubs made from different master matrices. If these line arrangements are consistent, then you are ready for step three.

Step 3 - compare the positions of legend letters, date elements, etc. with these line locations and **intercept points** and line touching locations of these elements relative to peripheral image devices on the specimen.

This is about all I can do with words Eric. I will see whether I can locate my image files which are buried someplace on about 10 different hard drives and innumerable CDs and send a few to you.

Obviously the images must all be carefully scaled for consistency. BUT - even if they are **not** exact you can determine this fact be noting that these line patterns

do not perfectly overlay each other; however, the lines will all be **parallel** in the comparative patterns and the distance between lines is proportional to the error.

Note that I have not even mentioned the number of harp strings.

Whew!

Jim/CNLF

P.S. - On a computer screen this is a **very quick** process using digital techniques.

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EricNumis@aol.com wrote:

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Subj: **Re: Maris and Virginia coinage photos**
Date: 02/06/2004 7:29:20 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hi Eric. Thank you for responding. Indeed I have found your email on the Maris photo plate-I. Sorry for the confusion. In regard to the Virginia coinage, do you still have the negatives of your plates or updated photos of the varieties mentioned? Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to respond!!! Best regards, Roger

--- EricNumis@aol.com wrote:
> Dear Roger:
> I remember seeing in my library some publication of
> the Maris plate
> substantially reduced in size. I will keep looking.
> As I indicated before I think that each overprinting
> of text onto the
> photographic Maris plate was done separately and
> therefore its positioning would be
> very slightly different because the photographic
> sheet was manually laid
> horizontally on the press bed.
> I thought i told your the differences in my two
> copies.
> Eric
>

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Subj: **Re: Maris and Virginia coinage photos**
Date: 02/06/2004 8:20:13 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hi Eric.

Ignore my last email, please!! I had not gotten to this email from you before responding to your previous email on the Maris plate and including a comment on wishing to have better images of a number of Virginia varieties.

Having said that, I have Gary Trudgen's promise to send me a copy of "The Gold Frog" by William Veach. Gary was a member of the original Veach Newsletter group and received his copy. As you may know, Gary recently published, through ANS, the Damon Douglas papers on NJ coinage and I was one of the people who provided annotations. We are all (Gary and the annotators) suppose to have a dinner together soon during which time we will sign each others copy of the book. In spite of borrowing the "Gold Frog" from Gary, I am also trying to purchase one. I think there is a mystery surrounding Veach and I would like to look into his life and sudden disappearance.

In regard to the Virginia coinage which you have a special love and which you served as the ground breaker in almost every way in trying to bring attention to this coinage, I think the time is ripe to take this coinage to the next level. I think that all that would be needed to do this would be a book (or even an article, or email site) which has high quality photographs of each variety. Lets face it, for the Virginia coinage the problem is in the difficult attribution. The difficult attribution is in part due to the existing low quality photos that are available to do that attribution. Though your articles were OUTSTANDING, the photo plates were poor. All that is needed is a place that coin collectors can go which will provide them the high quality photos to perform the attributions. As I said, this could be done in an article, a book or perhaps best of all, an Internet site available to all!!!

In regard to Alan Anthony, I have just met him while acting as the moderator of the CNLF e-group. He seems to be very dedicated to the Virginia coinage and has certainly been involved collecting this coinage far

longer than I have. I am a relative newcomer. I think that with the proper resources (I have offered to photograph all Virginia coins that anyone in the group owns), Alan will go forward with his project to update your articles. His photos and the examples of the coins used for the photos that he has in the article need to be upgraded. I think he will complete this project, but if not, one of the purposes of the Virginia e-group is to push these sorts of projects along. I would not want to usurp Alan's project, unless he seems to be abandoning it. His draft article is posted on the Virginia site and I would ask whether you would like to join the Virginia e-group, which would give you access to the files and photos. You could be a "lurker", if you wished and simply read the exchanges. I sent you an invite to join the group previously, but I will resend an invite to you if you might be interested.

In regard to the use of distances between dots and letters, I find it difficult to make the proper spatial judgments by sight alone. I have indicated to Alan and will do so now to you, that I think the best attribution scheme would be using the intersection of lines based on the slope of different portions of specific letters in the legends. I actually was working on such an attribution scheme until I ran into the problem that I did not have good enough photos of the different varieties in order to make the specific determinations. It is for this reason that, in my mind, the most important first step is to get high quality photos of the entire series. The next step after that will be to determine one or more methods for providing the attributions.

Any help in this would be appreciated. I realize you are very busy and I would be willing to supply some of the sweat equity in this project in order to make it go forward. Best regards, Roger

--- EricNumis@aol.com wrote:
> Dear Roger:
> I have a box full of Virginia copper coinage
> material including all the
> photographs from my publications on the subject. It
> is a mess because some of the
> positives have fallen off the cards they were pasted
> on and some stuff is not

> marked. I have not looked at it in years.
> I do not know if I have the Gold Frog in the
> material Veach sent me and will
> look for it. I do not remember it. He just suddenly
> checked out of the picture
> and that may have been caused by lack of the type of
> cooperation he expected.
> No one I know knows where he is or if he is.
> One of the important elements in differentiating
> Virginia die varieties is
> whether distance between the center of stops will be
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> think that it is one of the best elements to be
> used. Spilman wants to use
> something else that I do not understand. What is
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> descriptions can be improved. Where are the large
> collections of die
> varieties? Some of Anthony's pictures are excellent
> and some are miserable. More work
> has to be done on this matter before I can get into
> it as I have several other
> similar pending projects for others and am trying to
> write original items
> myself.
> I never turn down a bonafide request for research
> help but expect others who
> request help to do steady quality work. Remember I
> helped Veach and nothing
> much scholarly happened. I have helped Anthony and
> do not know where that stands.
> What are your thoughts as to moving the project
> forward. Eric

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Subj: **Re: Maris and Virginia coinage photos**
Date: 02/07/2004 8:18:44 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hi Eric. Gary Trudgen is sending me his copy of the "Gold Frog" and I have put out some feelers to see if anyone is willing to sell their copy. I know there is a mystery here somewhere. I won't expend a lot of time and effort in tracking down Veach or whomever he actually was, but I will be putting some time and effort in that direction.
In my e-mail yesterday, I mentioned my bias was to develop an attribution guide for Virginia coinage based on the intersection of lines drawn along the straight slanting portions of letters in the legends (as well as the harp). Though I am attracted to this approach, I think the best and end-all attribution method would be to have a software program, similar to the finger print identification program, that would run a comparative evaluation of an unknown Virginia coin image against a set of known Virginia varities - based on some yet to be determined identification factors. Of course this same program could be expanded to all the colonial series and would be a great help in identifying low grade coins. The technology to do this is available now, but what is needed is a software developer to put the time and effort into such a project with the input of a numismatist. If I could be so bold as to suggest that you might consider this as a technologically advanced numismatic project that would have an important impact on the hobby. The down side is the fun of attributing a coin would be taken away.
Best regards, Roger

--- EricNumis@aol.com wrote:
> Dear Roger:
> I found my Veach file and the GOLD FROG is there. I
> read a portion of it and
> it is a complex piece of mystery writing about a
> 1773 Virginia halfpence being
> found under a subway tunnel in Washington DC near
> the abode of a frog which
> picks up diamonds at the subway station above and
> drops them in a deep pool of
> water. It is 128 pages long. It is said to be a
> riddle and I really believe
> it. Whatever happened to Veach is also a mystery. He

> was such a careful
> correspondent and had more enthusiasm than many
> researchers put together. You are a
> doctor. You diagnose the case. Eric
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Subj: **Re: Maris and Virginia coinage photos**
Date: 02/08/2004 2:00:55 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: rogermoore435@yahoo.com

Dear Roger:
In response to your suggestions let me ask a simple question. If the reverse hub containing the harp device was the same on all Virginia pieces and the harp strings were not then part of it, the strings would be cut into the dies after the dies were made from the hubs, then all reverse varieties would have harp strings in slightly different positions. Those varieties with 6 strings would all differ. The same would be true of the 7 string group as well as the 8 string group. Is this true?
I am therefore wondering (assuming this is true) if differences could be found in the angle, positioning or spacing of the strings with respect to the body of the harp. This would make reverse varieties easier to identify.
Eric

Sunday, February 08, 2004 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: Maris and Virginia coinage photos**
Date: 02/07/2004 7:39:32 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: rogermoore435@yahoo.com

Dear Roger:
I found my Veach file and the GOLD FROG is there. I read a portion of it and it is a complex piece of mystery writing about a 1773 Virginia halfpence being found under a subway tunnel in Washington DC near the abode of a frog which picks up diamonds at the subway station above and drops them in a deep pool of water. It is 128 pages long. It is said to be a riddle and I really believe it. Whatever happened to Veach is also a mystery. He was such a careful correspondent and had more enthusiasm than many researchers put together. You are a doctor. You diagnose the case. Eric

Page 1 of 1

Saturday, February 07, 2004 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: Maris and Virginia coinage photos**
Date: 02/08/2004 2:00:55 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: rogermoore435@yahoo.com

Dear Roger:
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Sunday, February 08, 2004 America Online: EricNumis

Page 1 of 1

Subj: **Re: Maris and Virginia coinage photos**
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From: EricNumis
To: rogermoore435@yahoo.com

Dear Roger:
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Subj: **Re: Maris and Virginia coinage photos**
Date: 02/09/2004 9:21:08 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hi Eric, I just flew in from Chicago and am going through my e-mail. There are two important points that are indicated in your comment below:
1) Were portions of the obverse or reverse hubbed? I think that the shields on the reverse were hubbed (not the devices within the shields) but this assumption on my part will require that photographic overlay studies be performed. It may be that some shields differ from others slightly and perhaps one, two or even three hubs were used. I favor the single hub idea but a definitive conclusion isn't possible until the process of overlaying each one on top of the others is performed. Similarily, I think George III's head may have been hubbed also, with one or more hubs used. Therefore, the overlay process is needed for the obverses also.
2) Were the devices in the shield, with particular reference to the harp, and the lettering in the legends put on the die seperately from the hubbed portions and therefore have slightly different orientations? My conclusion is yes. That is the reason I propose that a better attribution method would be the use of the intersection of lines drawn along the straight part of the letters in the legends and along the harp strings. I do not think the harp itself was part of the shield hub but was a seperate addition to the die as a hubbed element - just like the lions and the horse that hold slightly different positions in the shields of different varitities.
Once again proof will await overlay studies. I am trying to learn to do overlays on my own using Photoshop Elements II but I am afraid that my learning this non-intuitive program will require my taking a course before I get it straight.
In any case I think there are some fruitful areas for study in the Virginia grouping of coins. However, the first step in all of this is to get good photographs of each variety!! The latter is project number one.
Best, Roger

--- EricNumis@aol.com wrote:
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Subj: **Re: Maris and Virginia coinage photos**
Date: 02/13/2004 8:03:00 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

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> What are your thoughts as to moving the project
> forward. Eric
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Subj: **Re: Virginia halfpenny and Early US Mint Ejection Mechanism**
Date: 02/15/2004 2:09:18 PM Central Standard Time
From: gaspar@wuchem.wustl.edu
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric,

Thank you for a stimulating afternoon yesterday. You always push me to my limits numismatically, and that is tremendously exciting. I enjoyed our discussion of your current ideas regarding the feed and ejection mechanism used in the early Federal Mint. I think you are very near the answer and quite possibly there already. I will work on some alternative diagrams to illustrate your ideas.

I have just reread the Dyer-Gaspar paper in ANS 27, 1982. It repaid the reading time. I walked to the University today so it is not easy to swing past your house, but tomorrow morning I shall leave you another copy of the reprint so that you don't need to look for it.

There seems to have been only one reverse punch ever made for the Virginia halfpenny: the tool that Dyer and I discovered. It lacks lettering, the strings in the Irish harp, the three lions in the English half of the British shield, and the upper left charge on the Hannoverian shield, so there was plenty of scope for hand finishing of each die. Each reverse die should _easily_ be differentiated from all others. There is the complication of the object that looks like a reverse shouldered die with a complete design that apparently was listed in the die records as a matrix. It is soft, so it was never used, and this explains why there are no coins that can be associated with it.

There were at one time two obverse punches and two matrices. The one matrix and punch that survive are unlettered and carry only the effigy of George III. Might the other obverse matrix and punch that do not survive have been fully leetered? That is a possiblility albeit somewhat unlikely.

A maximum of 40 obverse and 30 reverse dies were sunk, but it is not known how many of these were finished, hardened, or used. My guess is that the obverse dies as well as the reverse dies were hand-lettered, so each obverse die should be distinguishable from the positions of the elements of the inscription.

Thank you again for a wonderfully stimulating afternoon. It was nice to see Evelyn and hear that her enterprise to help the Garden is off to a good start. Please than her for the doughnuts. I feel about them as Will Rogers said he felt about people. - I never met one I didn't like.

Peter

Professor Peter P. Gaspar
Department of Chemistry
Washington University
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899

Subj: **Re: [VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] Well I feel better now.**
Date: 02/18/2004 7:51:17 AM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com, EricNumis@AOL.COM

Hi Eric. You provide very useful information in this email about possible numbers of dies which I will share with the Virginia e-group. There are two new varieties that have been discovered and up loaded into the files of the Virginia e-group. Syd Martin owns them. I am not allowed to reproduce these, but if you were a member of the e-group, you would have access to these files. Syd is coming over to my house on Sunday to do some photography and I will ask him if I can send you the images. I have to admit that there has been some recent discussion about renumbering the varieties at some distant point in the future, when we produce a book. The reason is that we may run out of numbers for the no-point varieties, as more are discovered. I think that with the limitations of the number of dies that you mention below, there are still a lot of varieties to be discovered!! One question for you: You skipped a number of letters in your nomenclature. Was this because those letter might be confused with small case letters or numbers? Finally, have you had a chance to sort through your Virginia photograph box? I think there could be a wealth of information from photos in this file. Is there someone that can go through these? Would it be presumptuous to offer my services in going through these, if in the future I can take some time to travel to your museum? I think the key to the Virginia series is to first get high quality images of every variety!! Roger

--- EricNumis@AOL.COM wrote:
> Dear Roger:
> The present enthusiasm for Virginia coinage research
> is a delight to me.
> There are many new participants and that is fine.
> Remember I went through all of
> the Veach experience and virtually nothing was
> accomplished. I have been
> helping Anthony for a substantial period and hope
> all of you are working together.
>
> In my opinion the reason Virginia die varieties were
> never collected on a
> popular basis is that the old photography when

> reproduced in publications did not
> make distinctions clear enough, particularly as to
> worn pieces. Digital seems
> enormously improved.
>
> I have talked the matter over with my close friend
> Peter Gaspar who wrote on
> the subject after my original work and he pointed
> out that according to the
> Royal Mint records 40 obverse dies and 30 reverse
> dies were prepared and that
> some of those may not have been hardened and some of
> the hardened ones may never
> have been used. They just had spare dies to use in
> the course of original
> production. This should limit the number of
> undiscovered possibilities. I want to
> be sure all of you realize this. It is most unusual
> to have such a record.
> As to new varieties or combinations I am not
> informed as to others than those
> previously published (mostly in CNL). Are there any
> others?
> Please keep me informed.
> Eric
>

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> Love from Ope,

Page 2 of 2

Tuesday, February 17, 2004 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: [VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] Files**
Date: 02/20/2004 10:15:42 PM Central Standard Time
From: JCSpilman1@Comcast.NET
Reply-to: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

Roger - They are in numerical order for digital hierarchy, but for for English numeric hierarchy.

For digital - if you are using a two digit system, the numbers in sequence must be - -

01
02
03
04
05
06
07
07
09
10
11
12
13 etc.

English numeric in a digital hierarchy comes out as
1
10
11
12
13 etc.
2
20
21
22
23
24 etc.
3
30
31
32
33 etc. up to 99

Which is what you entered.

Please stick with Eric's standard nomenclature of using double letters.

after
X
Y

Z comes
AA
BB
CC etc.

I also strongly suggest that you keep Obverses and Reverses paired together - otherwise you lose track of die breaks, die rotation and similar information..

Jim/CNLF

Roger Moore wrote:

> Gentlemen. I need your help. First I need Jim to look at the
> photosection and tell me why the files I made went all out of
> order. Also, how do we put them back in numerical and alphabetical
> order? Also when I click on the "see all files" a double set of
> files comes up for the alphabetic files.
> For everyone else, I decided to make a file for every known obverse
> and every known reverse, rather than having files for the
> combinations of the mulings. This was in part decided based on a
> conversation that I had with Syd the other night. This is where I
> need everyone's help. I have heard mention by Alan of a 29 obverse
> but what about the 28? I made a 30 and a 40 based on Syd's two new
> coins but we have run out of alphabet for the reverses. Should we
> do like the NJs and go to lower case letters? I think we all need
> to agree on the convention for the near future labeling of new
> varieties, at least one that we can use until we write the
> definitive book and standardize the whole process.
> By the way, welcome to Eric Newman and Scott Loos as our two newest
> members. Roger
>
>
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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Yahoo! Groups Links

<*> To visit your group on the web, go to:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773/

Subj: **Re: [VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] Die interlock chart**
Date: 03/12/2004 12:16:42 AM Central Standard Time
From: rosaamltd@aol.com
Reply-to: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

Roger, I'm curious about why you think the harpstrings correlate to month of striking (or more accurately, the month that the dies were engraved)...to me it sounds like a far-fetched idea, only because there are precious few coinages that actually include month in addition to year of striking (the Gun Money coinages being the main exception). To my mind there seems to be a more plausible explanation....the harp itself is rather small, and there can really only be a set number of strings that would actually fit into the space. 1, 2, 3 or 4 harpstrings would probably leave the device looking rather empty, while 5,6,7 or 8 might be about all that could conceivably be squeezed in.

Remember the 1722 Hibernia halfpennies that also vary in terms of string count, this time with 9,10,11 and 12 harpstings...I don't think anyone has ever suggested that these were struck from September through December, it's just that the harp itself is larger and can accomodate more strings in the design without being too crowded.

Jeff Rock

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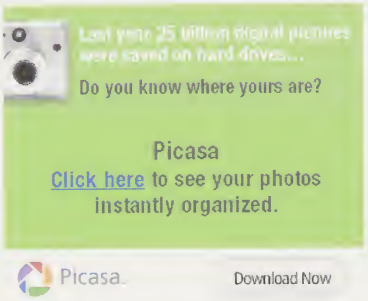

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- To visit your group on the web, go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773/
- To unsubscribe from this group, send an email to: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com
- Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to the Yahoo! Terms of Service.

Subj: **[VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] Re: New dies**
Date: 03/18/2004 10:49:41 AM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
Reply-to: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com
To: Vacoinage@aol.com
CC: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

Alan, I was incorrect on the 14. It is a no period type. So we will keep the 14 designation. It is plated in the C-4 catalog from 1996 lot 179. I have attached a remastered photograph of the photograph. We just need high quality photos of the 11, 12, 21, and V and a good attribution guide can be made. Let me know your thoughts on the paper. Once you give input, I thought we could send to Eric for his thoughts. I will share this image of the 14 obverse with the Virginia group also. Roger

--- Vacoinage@aol.com wrote:
> Roger, Where did you find a listing for the 14? I
> would like a copy untill I can get an original. Alan
>

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<*> To visit your group on the web, go to:
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<*> To unsubscribe from this group, send an email to:
VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

<*> Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to:
http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/

14

Subj: **Attribution charts for Virginians**
Date: 03/18/2004 10:57:17 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@AOL.COM

Dear Eric, I have included two charts (one for the 7 harp string reverses and one for the no-period obverses) that I have put together from photographs that I have taken from a variety of sources. I have made charts for the other groupings, if you wish to see them. Some are photos of photos from auction catalogs, some are photos from a number of people's collections taken with different lighting and cameras, and some are taken from coin images that appeared on ebay. I think you will get a sense of what can be done, however, once better photos are obtained. You will note that the no-period obverse chart is missing the 11 and 12, since I have no good examples of these. Similarly, the "with period" obverse chart lacks the 21 obverse; and the 8 harp string reverse chart lacks the V reverse. I know I have pestered you previously about this but is there some way I could get photos of these varieties from you?

On another note I have developed a die interlock chart of the Virginia coinage and written a short paper about what it shows. My die chart differs from the one you had in Museum notes X by dividing the die varieties by number of harp strings only. I have asked Alan Anthony to co-author the paper with me and he is reading it now. However, I would be honored if you would take a look at it also and give me your thoughts. I would welcome you as a co-author but I doubt that the paper is at a high enough academic level for you.

Finally, I am working on an attribution guide for the Virginia coinage which I believe will open this area up to more collectors. Whether the collectors will come or not will have to be seen; but at least if they have an interest, they will have the ability to collect more easily by variety.

Please let me know your thoughts.

Best regards,

Roger

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Subj: **Attribution charts for Virginians**
Date: 03/18/2004 10:57:17 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@AOL.COM

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Please let me know your thoughts.

Best regards,

Roger

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Subj: **Re: Attribution charts for Virginians**
Date: 03/19/2004 8:21:15 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: rogermoore435@yahoo.com

Dear Roger:
This is in answer to your 3/18/04 communication.
I am delighted with the show of enthusiasm for the Virginia halfpence and all the work which the group is doing. I want to see a fine updating of the project published. You realize that I have gone through the Veach episode and have been helping Alan for a long time. I have a number of projects which are pending in which I try to help others and I am doing
research and writing of my own. When your text is in more or less complete draft form with images and with improvements in die descriptions I will go over it and see what I can contribute. If I can add enough I may join authorship if your group wants me to.
As I told you I have my original files and hopefully all of the image prints I originally had but these are in a box and will take a lot of work to straighten out as some have become unglued from the cardboard mounting panels. I also have a number of nice pieces in my collection which has not been added to since the 1940s. Make me a list of what varieties to look for. I am not permitted to drive due to my age so I do not get to go the bank to visit my material too often.
Who is going to publish what you have done? Are the images going to be in color? Publication of this type of work requires finding the best examples, endless rewriting for clarification, and extensive proofreading and checking to avoid as many mistakes as possible. I have yet to have something published which did not need some correction or improvement.
Peter Gaspar is here in St. Louis and probably will go over the draft if you or I ask him.
All of you are computer experts and I am a novice. I have done past work without such support.
I hope you understand my feelings. Eric

Subj: **Re: Attribution charts for Virginians**
Date: 03/20/2004 10:10:16 AM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hello Eric. In regard to publications, there will be a series of individual publications that I plan to write for the CNL. Into these publications I will invite co-authorship from interested individuals, such as Alan Anthony, Syd Martin and if you desire - yourself. The first publication that I am working on now is simply a die interlock chart of all known Virginia die varieties. You have already done this to some extent in you Museum X Notes update of the Virginia coinage. The orientation I am taking in this paper is to take Veach's idea of the number of harp strings representing a temporal progression of the minting process, and make a die relationship chart based on the number of harp strings. In doing this I found only one obverse crossing the 6 to 8 harp string division - the "5" obverse. The die chart is in the Virginia Group files section, if you wish to see it or I could e-mail it to you. The chart at this time includes a "L-1" reverse that Veach lists in his Generations Newsletter but I have not found any other reference to it. I plan to remove this "L-1" reverse from the chart unless I can find substantiation that it exists. Do you know anything about the "L-1" reverse?

The second paper will be an attribution guide but before this can be published, I need high quality photographs of each known variety. I am missing the obverse 11, 12, and 21 at this time and the V reverse. In addition a number of the images which I have presently could use an upgrade. This guide will open up the collection of Virginia coinage to other colonial collectors who have been inhibited from collecting them due to the difficulty in attributing them. A taste of this is in the charts I e-mailed you earlier.

The third publication will most likely be a book on the Virginia coinage. I know Alan Anthony has been working on an update of your paper and I think this could serve as the core of the book. There will have to be a series of other chapters including the die charts, the attribution guide(s), the history of Virginia coinage (something that would be hard to duplicate better than what appeared in your original

monograph), a rarity scale with exploration of the Cohen hoard, and a more indepth study of the matrix, punches and the die in existance in the Tower Mint (I would like to travel to see these and have extreme close up photos of them made - perhaps Gaspar would be interested in writing this chapter with me?). In any case the book is a fair ways down the road and since I think Alan has the intention of carrying this project forward, I will primarily be available to assist him, unless he wants me to take a greater role or he drops the ball. The whole culmination of the e-group in my mind is the prduction of a high quality book on the Virginia coinage.

So you can see that activity is occurring and I could use your help. I would be willing to travel to St. Louis at some future date to try putting your photo files in order, if in return I could use some of the photographs in the papers and book.

Best regards, Roger

--- EricNumis@aol.com wrote:
> Dear Roger:
> This is in answer to your 3/18/04 communication.
> I am delighted with the show of enthusiasm for the
> Virginia halfpence and all
> the work which the group is doing. I want to see a
> fine updating of the
> project published.
> You realize that I have gone through the Veach
> episode and have been helping
> Alan for a long time. I have a number of projects
> which are pending in which I
> try to help others and I am doing
> research and writing of my own. When your text is in
> more or less complete
> draft form with images and with improvements in die
> descriptions I will go over
> it and see what I can contribute. If I can add
> enough I may join authorship if
> your group wants me to.
> As I told you I have my original files and hopefully
> all of the image prints
> I originally had but these are in a box and will
> take a lot of work to
> straighten out as some have become unglued from the
> cardboard mounting panels. I also
> have a number of nice pieces in my collection which

> has not been added to
> since the 1940s. Make me a list of what varieties to
> look for. I am not permitted
> to drive due to my age so I do not get to go the
> bank to visit my material
> too often.
> Who is going to publish what you have done? Are the
> images going to be in
> color? Publication of this type of work requires
> finding the best examples,
> endless rewriting for clarification, and extensive
> proofreading and checking to
> avoid as many mistakes as possible. I have yet to
> have something published which
> did not need some correction or improvement.
> Peter Gaspar is here in St. Louis and probably will
> go over the draft if you
> or I ask him.
> All of you are computer experts and I am a novice. I
> have done past work
> without such support.
> I hope you understand my feelings. Eric
>

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Subj: **[VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] New varieties**
Date: 03/21/2004 6:24:24 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
Reply-to: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

Hi all. If you saw my response to John's email, you will note that I have been hard at work on the Virginia Coinage all weekend. In fact I have gone a long way toward developing an attribution guide. However, from a recent communication that I have received, Eric Newman feels that publishing such a guide would undermine the sale of a book on Virginia coinage, so I plan to keep this to myself for the time being until we determine a time line for the book that we will be publishing. Personally, I would like to see one published within a two year time frame.
In regard to the die interlock chart, I have spent hours trying to determine what "new" varieties are real. As I previously said, I think Syd's 40 is a 4 obverse and his 30 is actually a 14-E on further study. In addition in a C-4 Newsletter from 2002 there was a possible 10-C shown. In actuality, I think this is a 13-T and is not a new variety at all. I have requested that the author of the C-4 Newsletter article forward to me quality photos of the coin. Therefore what are the new varieties since Newman's second article? There is no question that a new "no point" variety exists which was plated in the 1996 C-4 catalog as lot # 179. It was called a 14-E in the catalog and I agree. This is how I will list it on the new die interlock chart that Alan and I are producing unless someone has an objection. Additionally the New England Rare coin Auction of Vlack's coins on March 1976 has for lot # 108 a new die combination "with period" called a 28-N. I agree and have added this varietry to the die chart. Also, in the 1998 C-4 catalog lot # 91 there is an "unlisted" variety. I think the reverse is an "N" and the obverse is a new variety that I have called a 29. This is how I will list it on the die interlock chart unless someone has an objection. Finally, in the recent Heritage auction there was a Virginia that sold for over $4000. I was the underbidder and if I had known then what I know now, I would have gone higher. In any case this "no period" obverse is a new variety and the 7 harp string reverse is a new die also. Based on previous discussions with Jim Spilman this variety should be called a 16-AA. I have listed it as such on the die interlock chart. I have attached a photo of the coin to this emnail for evalualtion.

Though there may be other dies varieties out there, if I have not seen them, in my mind they do not exist. Therefore, if anyone wants a new die variety listed other than the ones I have outlined, please get me the information as soon as possible.
Let me know if you disagree with me on any of the above assessments. I plan to try publishing the new die interlock chart in the next few months. I am not infallible with these attributions and certainly can be mistaken!! Alan, I would especially appreciate your feedback and I will be forwarding to you an updated die interlock chart, based on what I have indicated, in the next day or so. Roger

---

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VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

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Subj: **Re: [VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] 10-W**
Date: 03/21/2004 7:13:38 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
Reply-to: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com
CC: EricNumis@AOL.COM

Dear Eric, I appreciate your concern. My idea about releasing small papers on things tangential to the Virginia coinage was primairly aimed at arousing some interest in the coinage, which has been mostly moribund, before the actual release of a book. The first paper that Alan and I will be putting out is a very simple paper which lists the known die varieties including those that have come to light since your seminal second paper. With the provision of information that new and rare varieties are still out there to be discovered, even as late as last month, this should wet the appetite of the treasure hunter hidden at the core of nearly every colonial coin collector. On consideration, I believe you are correct about avoiding the writing of a paper that serves as a definitive guide to attribution. Some will take that paper and will want nothing else. Instead, I will incorporate the attribution guide as a chapter in the book and this will hopefully stimulate those with any interest in the Virginia coinage to buy the book. I was wondering if you could approach Gaspar on co-authoring the chapter on the die punches, matrix and die that is in the Tower mint? Also, would I be able to sort your photos if I made a trip to Saint Louis? Thank you!! Roger

--- EricNumis@AOL.COM wrote:
> Dear Roger:
> In your recent communication to me you state that
> you wish first to have the
> Virginia die varieties published separately in C4 by
> you or Alan, then later
> the history text detail by Alan and finally a book
> covering the consolidated
> subject matter.
> I do not mean to interfere but want to express my
> feeling that the sale of a
> Virginia book could be extensively hurt by such
> action as some people will
> only want the die varieties and use the C4 detail
> and forget the book. You could
> use the C4 to mention varieties you need better or
> additional images of or

> information on but if you give major detail and
> images of all you then know you
> might shoot yourself in the foot.
> This happened to Sylvester Crosby. He had a
> committee to help him publish his
> opus. When the Massachusetts segment was released
> early in AJN then all those
> primarily interested in that subject did not buy his
> segments or book and
> quit helping him financially and editorially. He was
> left alone to finish his
> work and only sold a modest number of copies.
> Please think this over. Eric
>

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VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

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http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/

Subj: **Virginia Die interlock paper**
Date: 03/23/2004 4:09:08 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: ericnumis@aol.com

Dear Eric. I have attached the Virginia die interlock paper and chart, that I mentioned in a previous email, which I will try to submit to CNL for publication. I would welcome your co-authorship on it if you would want to have your name on it and if you could help me with some of the details. I have also included Alan's name on the paper and am awaiting his comments. The 4 new varieties that I have been able to identify - 14-E, 16-AA, 28-N and 29-N - will be included in the article. You will note that I attribute to you in a "personal communication" the reasoning behind leaving the C, I, L and U reverses out of your sequence, as having to do with potential for confusing these letters with each other or with numbers. Is this assumption on my part correct??? I will take this reference out if you wish, but I think future students of the Virginia coinage will want to know the exact "why" for you doing this. Also do you know of any other new varieties than the ones I mention? I can send you the photos of the ones I mention or you can find them in auction catalogs based on the references in the paper.

Please let me know if you would want to co-author this with me? Also do you have contact information on Gaspar?

Best regards, Roger

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Subj: **Virginia halfpence**
Date: 03/24/2004 5:05:39 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: rogermoore435@yahoo.com

Dear Roger:
This is an answer to your 3/23/04 message.
The reason I left C, I, L, U and other reverse die designations out of my original publication was as stated on page 47 that I was leaving unused designations for new die varieties which I believed might be found. I merely left gaps in the sequence. In my "Additions" published years later I used some of them.
As to being one of the authors of what is sought to be published in C4 or later I want to have contributed something if I do and want to be satisfied with what is written. Whenever I get the near final draft I can check my Virginia reference box. I assume Alan will have completed his input and is satisfied. You have all the known new varieties I presume and will have images of everything and revised word descriptions.
I am sure you now can realize how much work went into my work about 50 years ago and if I become a coauthor it will probably be the longest gap in numismatic literature for a revision in which the same person tried to help complete a study.
Peter Gaspar is very interested in what is going on but is tied up for the moment on other matters. I suggest you do not contact him until I see the draft.
As far as your visiting St. Louis that may be desirable but I believe that the above work ought to be completed first.
Eric

Subj: **Re: Virginia halfpence**
Date: 03/24/2004 7:48:28 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hello Eric. Thank you for your response. In regard to the unused C, I, L and U reverse designations, which were left out of your 1956 paper for Virginia varieties, I was not able to find any of these reverse designations being used in your 1963 update. I do know the gaps left by you for the obverses, which was a very logical approach, have been utilized effectively. This usage is shown by the new 14, 16, 28 and 29 designations. I did send you a copy of the nearly completed paper for CNL that deals just with the die interlock chart. The scope of this paper is primarily to remind the CNL readership that the Virginia colonial coins are out there and should be evaluated by them. It also allows me to request the readership to submit any new varieties to my attention. By doing this I hope to accumulate the information I need to go forward with the book. My interaction has already been successful in getting permissions to use photographs of the 4 new varieties in the above short manuscript and these same photographs will be used in the book (hopefully with some other new varieties that I do not know about yet). I hope you received the manuscript which was an attachment to the last email I sent you. If not, I would be happy to sent the nearly finalized draft to you through the usual postal system. Let me know what you would like me to do.

The only new reverse designation that I found since your update is the "AA" reverse that I mention in the manuscript. I used the "AA" designation for this 7 harp string reverse, because I thought you wanted to avoid the C, I, L, and U letters. I now know I am wrong, based on your response. What designation for this new reverse would you suggest? C? I? or some other? I will change the paper accordingly. I would like your input into this paper (this is not the paper or book which will eventually be the definitive study of Virginia coinage - just the one dealing with an update of the new dies and the inter-relationships of the Virginia dies). I will be submitting the paper for review (the limited paper on die interlocks) in the next week or so to CNL, and would once again appreciate your co-authorship on it if you would accept.

On another matter, I will probably try to travel to

London within the next year to study the matrix, punches and die that still exist for the Virginia coinage. I will basically be retracing Gaspar and Dyer's steps but I think it necessary to get a first hand view of these artifacts myself and get high quality photographs of them for the eventual book. I would like to have Gaspar be part of this effort but will go ahead without him, if he is tied up. No matter what, I would appreciate his critical review of the paper that will come from my evaluation of these artifacts.
Let me know if you received the die interlock paper with the chart that I plan to submit to CNL in the next few weeks. I will change the section in the paper dealing with your decision not to use the C, I, L, and U reverse designations. I would welcome your co-authorship on this short paper if you deemed it advisable.
Best regards, Roger

--- EricNumis@aol.com wrote:
> Dear Roger:
> This is an answer to your 3/23/04 message.
> The reason I left C, I, L, U and other reverse
> die designations out of
> my original publication was as stated on page 47
> that I was leaving unused
> designations for new die varieties which I believed
> might be found. I merely left
> gaps in the sequence. In my "Additions" published
> years later I used some of
> them.
> As to being one of the authors of what is sought to
> be published in C4 or
> later I want to have contributed something if I do
> and want to be satisfied with
> what is written. Whenever I get the near final draft
> I can check my Virginia
> reference box. I assume Alan will have completed his
> input and is satisfied.
> You have all the known new varieties I presume and
> will have images of
> everything and revised word descriptions.
> I am sure you now can realize how much work went
> into my work about 50 years
> ago and if I become a coauthor it will probably be
> the longest gap in
> numismatic literature for a revision in which the
> same person tried to help complete a
> study.

> Peter Gaspar is very interested in what is going on
> but is tied up for the
> moment on other matters. I suggest you do not
> contact him until I see the draft.
> As far as your visiting St. Louis that may be
> desirable but I believe that
> the above work ought to be completed first.
> Eric
>

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Subj: **Re: Virginia halfpence**
Date: 03/25/2004 3:32:41 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: rogermoore435@yahoo.com

Dear Roger:
I received your comments about the present draft. If you do not need to use AA for the new reverse then I suggest you use whatever available letter fits in with the 7 string group.
I suggest that you make such text revisions to your draft as you feel proper and send me the revised draft by postal delivery.
As far as your plan to go to England (Wales) I will find out from Gaspar whether Dyer can help you as he is retired. I have the pressing from the 9 string reverse in my collection.
One of my thoughts for your draft is to point out how many Virginia halfpence have been and are being found with metal detectors and how difficult it is to check the variety when the coin has deteriorated. Also to state that new varieties have been found steadily.
On the die interlock chart you might state that it will be subsequently modified for new finds and for any errors when final publication takes place.
I presume you have abandoned the illogical idea that the number of strings relates to the month of striking as the obverses have multiple combinations and there is no point to making an unsupported comment.
I hope I have been helpful. Eric

Subj: **Re: Virginia halfpence**
Date: 03/25/2004 3:32:41 PM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: rogermoore435@yahoo.com

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I hope I have been helpful. Eric

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> As far as your visiting St. Louis that may be
> desirable but I believe that
> the above work ought to be completed first.
> Eric
>

Subj: **[VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] 16-?**
Date: 03/25/2004 8:52:26 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
Reply-to: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

Hi all. I have previously discussed the new obverse and reverse dies that I tentatively called a 16-AA. The 16 holds but the AA is now up in the air. I had assumed that the letters C, I, L and U were left out of the original Newman designation due to his desire not to have these designations confused with other letters or numbers. This assumption was wrong, based on an email I received from Eric today. He suggested using the unused letters if the reverse falls into the proper catagory. My feeling is that for the next six harp string reverse that is found, we use the C designation. The I and L both fall in the seven harp string grouping and therefore they are not appropriate designations for the new 8 harp string reverse. However, they should be used for the next two reverses with seven harp strings. The U designation, however, could be used for either a seven or an eight harp string reverse, since U falls between the two groupings. My personal feeling is that with many more seven harp string varieties to potentially be found, that we should preserve this for a seven harp string reverse and go ahead and use the AA designation for the new eight harp string reverse. However, I am only one member of our group, so I wanted your input before publishing the die interlock chart. If I do not hear any objections, I will continue to use the AA designation for the new 8 harp string reverse.

Alan, based on Eric's communication I will be making a number of changes in the paper. Once made I will send on to you for your final thoughts. Thank you all. Roger

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Subj: **Re: Virginia halfpence**
Date: 03/25/2004 6:06:51 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hi Eric. Thanks for the reply. I will ask the Virginia egroup how they would like to proceed with the naming of the reverses. Jim Spilman was of the mind that the AA designation would be good if we wanted to avoid the other letters (C, I, L and U). I avoided using these letters because I thought you had not used them due to the potential for mixing them up with other letters and numbers. Since this is not the case, I will reconsider an appropriate name for the new reverse. Do you know of other reverses or obverses??? I would like the die chart to be as complete as possible. Obviously it is a fluid document and I fully expect that in 10 years it will need to be updated with new finds.
In regard to Veach's idea of a date sequence of the dies based on number of harp strings, I will admit to finding the idea intriging and have used this idea in the paper. Certainly we know the first coins minted were the proof 1-A six stringed coins and we know the last die made, which was never used but saved, was a nine string harp reverse. In addition the die interlock evidence also supports this idea, as you will read in the paper - with the notable exception of the 5-B and 5-Z combinations which cross the six to eight harp string barrier. I do indicate that there is no evidence for Veach's theory but the idea is appealing and indirectly supported by the observations. If you completely disagree with this idea, you would probably not want your name associated with the paper; but let me send it to you anyway and get your thoughts. It will go out to you in the next week or so by snail mail. I will also be sending images of the 4 new varieties that will be presented in the paper, and would like your opinion as to whether there are others that you know about. I do mention the metal detector finds as an indication that the coinage was circulated (In fact I have purchased a number of these that have been sold on ebay with the latest one being a 13-I).
Finally the paper is written primarily to reintroduce the Virginia coinage in a simple manner to collectors and to stimulate them with the thought that there are still a lot of undiscovered varieties to be found.
With the Gaspar and Dyer paper showing 40 obverses and 30 reverses, some 1200 die varieties are possible. I

Subj: **Re: [VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] 16-?**
Date: 03/26/2004 11:49:00 AM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

Roger:
The least desirable letter to use for a new reverse variety would be 'I' because it is somewhat similar to 1 and sometimes 1 is written in Roman numerals.
You can double any letter and use it in a proper harp string place and that is why I feel AA at present is unnecessary. So far as I know there is no significance as to the order or omission of any letters which do or could stand for the reverse varieties except to group them by the number of harp strings.
I am glad you are making progress. This type of work is not easy and for you that have sharp eyes it is fun.
Eric

Subj: **Re: Virginia halfpence**
Date: 03/25/2004 6:06:51 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

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Date: 03/26/2004 11:49:00 AM Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

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I am glad you are making progress. This type of work is not easy and for you that have sharp eyes it is fun.
Eric

think this should get collector's attention. Roger

--- EricNumis@aol.com wrote:
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> you do not need to use
> AA for the new reverse then I suggest you use
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> I hope I have been helpful. Eric
>

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Subj: **Re: [VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] Interesting discovery**
Date: 03/28/2004 1:06:23 PM Central Standard Time
From: jmkleeberg@yahoo.com
Reply-to: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

--- Roger Moore <rogermoore435@yahoo.com> wrote:
> I hope someone is reading these messages
> occasionally.
> Does anyone agree? Does anyone care? Roger

Roger, don't sell yourself short. Of the eSIG groups, this one is (after NJ), the most active one - which is remarkable, since we have only eleven people subscribed. The specialized eSIGs have been fairly quiet. Does that mean they are a failure? Of course not. If you look over the number of messages posted to the colonial-coins group, which clearly is a success, they have swooped up and down; the group seemed on the brink of petering out in March 2001, but after that the number of messages mounted and mounted, and now the group regularly breaks 1000 messages a month. I think it's a great group, and I even like most of the off topic postings; I have zero interest in basketball, but it's useful to get reminded that there are other people who care very much about that.

I haven't responded to all your tasks immediately partly because I need to do proper research before I answer. Virginias are tough to attribute (although I find them easier than Connecticuts - fewer varieties to hunt through). Also, I have misplaced the colonial volume of the Garrett sale - it seems to have fallen in the stratigraphy as low as Troy II, and I am currently only operating in Troy VIIA.

I have a totally different take on things - first, I think this group is very active, and very successful - we have made more progress towards popularizing the importance of Virginia attributions than has been done since Veach left the scene; and secondly, I believe we are in the throes of a sea change in terms of Virginia collecting. If someone were to ask me eighteen months ago if there was anyone interested in Virginias by die variety, all I could answer was - I think there is one - Alan - now I would answer that there are at least a dozen. I found it remarkable that Jeff is selling Virginias by die variety and noting which ones are the rare ones; that Mike R. (as usual) is discovering new varieties of Virginias. That means that a number of sophisticated dealers are now paying attention to the

varieties, and that means there are a number of collectors who are tracking them too. The most astonishing thing I saw was that in Jack Beymer's advertisement in Coin World of March 29, 2004, on p. 37, he is selling Virginia halfpence and notes that all are attributed to Newman numbers. That means that a dealer believes it is worth taking up a number of lines in a full page advertisement in Coin World to list Virginias by Newman numbers. The big obstacle, as I see it, remains the auction houses. Once they begin listing the Virginia halfpence by Newman numbers, the floodgates will open.

"Is anybody there? Does anybody care?" Roger, take that CD of "1776 - the Musical" out of the CD player now. Yes, I know it is one of the greatest musicals ever, but your family wants to listen to something else! ;)

John M. Kleeberg

_____
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Subj: **Re: Welcome Back**
Date: 05/29/2004 5:14:16 PM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: rogermoore435@yahoo.com

Dear Roger:
We have just returned from a lovely vacation.
I am delighted that my picture of E turned out as desired and enabled you to make the images more accurate.
You asked me about "counterfeits" and here I go with more advice. I strongly object to the publication of items which are not real counterfeits and which are merely later reproductions or forgeries. Electros and casts are not counterfeits. Counterfeits are intended to be circulated during the period of circulation of the coins involved. I explained all of this in an article in the Numismatist in 1978 or thereabouts. I have some of this forgery junk I believe. I have never seen or heard of a real counterfeit. All you have to do is mention that repros or forgeries exist. Anyone can make one at any time. Do not ruin a good piece of research with such trivia.
You may not agree with my advice but I feel I must give it to you.
Thanks for listening. Eric

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Subj: **Re: Welcome Back**
Date: 5/30/2004 8:55:44 AM Central Standard Time
From: rogermadre435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hi Eric, Welcome back again. I hope you received my mailing in which I returned your four photographs. The writing of a forgery paper would be an entirely seperate paper that would be published at another time - not part of the die interlock paper, which I think is close to being ready for submission. I see our second paper on forgeries as being a benefit to the collecting public, since there are a number of them out there that are very deceptive. I just wrote about one in the C-4 Newsletter this past month that I bought on ebay as a real 10-W Virginian!! Alan has sent me some of his very deceptive cast forgeries of a 22-S and a 7-D. Therefore, the new paper I am proposing is a description and photograph of these deceptive "coins", as well as any others that may turn up. The way forgeries are made would be explored and how they can be determined would also be described. With the paper being oriented on the Virginia coinage specifically, it would continue to generate interest and awareness of this coinage with the readership. Meanwhile it would allow us a breather as we moved forward with the attribution guide.
By the way, in regard to the attribution guide, I may have found a source of high definition pictures of the Virginia coinage. I telephoned a photographer called Bill Noyes to ask permission to use four of his photographs in the Saint Patrick attribution guide; and as we were speaking, he indicated he had a huge file of Virginia coin images also. If I can tap into these, this may solve our problem of getting high grade photographs of most of the Virginia varieties. Let me know if I have swayed you in regard to a short but important paper on Virginia forgeries.
Best, Roger

--- EricNumis@aol.com wrote:
> Dear Roger:
> We have just returned from a lovely vacation.
> I am delighted that my picture of E turned out as
> desired and enabled you to
> make the images more accurate.
> You asked me about "counterfeits" and here I go with
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> circulated during the period of
> circulation of the coins involved. I explained all
> of this in an article in the
> Numismatist in 1978 or thereabouts. I have some of
> this forgery junk I believe. I
> have never seen or heard of a real counterfeit. All
> you have to do is mention
> that repros or forgeries exist. Anyone can make one
> at any time. Do not ruin a
> good piece of research with such trivia.
> You may not agree with my advice but I feel I must
> give it to you.
> Thanks for listening. Eric
>

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Subj: **Re: [VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] 16-VV or 16-U**
Date: 5/31/2004 8:41:13 PM Central Standard Time
From: sfmartin5@comcast.net
Reply-to: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

Roger: though late in responding, I'd go with the VV (and not a space between them). Syd

rosaamltd@aol.com wrote:

> Small letters would just be too confusing, in my opinion -- since Eric Newman didn't use them, why start now? I would vote to save the "U" designation for the next 7 harpstring reverse -- it makes some sense to leave it there, and allow for the eventual expansion of that category. As for this 8-string, I still think WW would be the next best bet, since that won't be confused with anything else, and it still leaves three open letters -- XX, YY, and ZZ -- for further expansion (though I doubt that many more new ones will be found). A second option would be to go for the Connecticut copper version -- it would require changing the V to V.1, and then something else can be V.2, etc. This way does have the benefit of being flexible enough that you can keep dies together that share similarities, such as position of the leaf under I, etc., and put them next to the die they closely resemble, instead of just the next available letter.....but Roger, in the end, the choice seems to be yours!

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Subj: **Re: [VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] 16-VV or 16-U**
Date: 5/31/2004 9:42:01 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermmoore435@yahoo.com
Reply-to: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

Syd, Where have you been??? I think the majority was for the U reverse with Alan and I lining up on that side after HEAVY urging from Eric Newman. He hated the VV. In any case we need to get together. When are you available. Perhaps a week night? Roger

--- "Sydney F. Martin" <sfmartin5@comcast.net> wrote:
> Roger: though late in responding, I'd go with the
> VV (and not a space
> between them). Syd
>
> rosaamltd@aol.com wrote:
>
> > Small letters would just be too confusing, in my
> opinion -- since Eric
> > Newman didn't use them, why start now? I would
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> next to the die they
> > closely resemble, instead of just the next
> available letter.....but
> > Roger, in the end, the choice seems to be yours!
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Subj: **Re: [VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] Smithsonian**
Date: 06/11/2004 11:12:48 AM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

Roger: If in my work long ago I designated 15 as a period variety rather than a die break on a no period variety I think that when you correct this you might state that the die break makes it appear as though it was a period. I did not have the number of pieces to check that you have and could have made the mistake regardless. Eric

Subj: **Virginia Plates**
Date: 5/31/2004 4:16:21 PM Central Standard Time
From: Vacoinage
To: EricNumis

Dear Mr. Newman:

I got a wonderful present the other day. A set of the original Newman plates, what a treasure. I will prize them and your note the rest of my life. It is sort of ironic though, as I am working so hard to supersede them with a better more modern set of photos. I was also thrilled to see you on The History Channel. I though you looked quite well and fit.

A few changes have been made to the manuscript but nothing major. I just got a higher grade 9B on ebay last night that will upgrade both of those photographs in the work. I have yet to find a 5Z better that Fine and this will be the first 9B that I have seen better than Fine. I will post a picture on the Virginia egroup as soon as I get it.

Thanks,
Alan

Subj: **[VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] Kolbe**
Date: 06/07/2004 10:28:34 PM Central Daylight Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
Reply-to: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

Hi all. The Kolbe sale is past and I am back from another trip. Did anyone get anything in the Kolbe sale? I did get one item that relates to Virginians. Evidently Ford was the cataloger for the New Netherlands Company for a while and he cataloged the 59th sale. The 59th sale is the one where the new "discovery" 14-E was plated and described. The lot I won in Kolbe was all the photographs and layouts used to make this 59th catalog. Therefore, I know own high quality photographs of first palted appearance of the so called 14-E. Hopefully we will debunk this variety in our coming paper. In addition I bid on the set of private letters that one of our illustrious members (Eric Newman) wrote to John Ford. The presale estimate on the lot was $1000 and the letters finally sold for $1400. I was the under bidder. In some of the letters Eric describes some of his experiences while writing the Virginia articles!! I am sorry I missed out.
After the Die Interlock paper is published, which is only awaiting Syd and I getting together, Alan and I have discussed doing a paper on forgeries in the Virginia series. Does anyone own forgeries of Virginia coins? Would anyone like to help in the research and writing of a paper on this topic?
Hope all is well with everyone. Roger

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VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

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Subj: **14-15**
Date: 06/12/2004 10:16:29 AM Central Daylight Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric,
I am in Rhode Island this weekend for the wedding of a friend's child and will be back home on Sunday. Gary indicated by email that the Virginia paper will be formatted for the CNL coming out after the next one comes out. It is time to get started on the next paper!!
Thank you for responding to my questions about the 14-15 obverses. I ask the same question in the letter I have sent out in the mail to you, which contains the 7 and 8 harp string attribution guides. You can ignore the question as posed in the letter. However, if you remember the reasons for skipping the obverse 14 designation, I think it is an important part of the Virginia coinage lore that should be preserved.
I think I told you that I bid on your papers in the Kolbe sale but lost the bid. They were estimated to sell at $1000. I put a bid in of $1300, expecting to definitely get them, and the sold for $1400. I was the under bidder!! In any case this is a round about way for me to bring up something that may not be any of my business. I think, if you have not already done so, that you dictate all the memories that you have of your past numismatic involvements. The idea is that no one knows them as well as you and to have your first hand memories, stories, thoughts, etc. documented somewhere would be very important. Whether you know it or not, you are probably the leading numismatic figure of your generation and you will be written about when you are gone. Now is the time to document the truth. Just my meddling opinion.
Hope all is well. Best regards, Roger

kbressett@pcisys.net

Subj: **Re: [VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] Next Virginia paper**
Date: 06/21/2004 8:48:15 PM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis@AOL.COM
Reply-to: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

I will look for fake Virginia pieces shortly.
You have three authors and you certainly do not need me. I will be glad to look over your final draft if that would help. Thank you for asking me to be an author. Eric

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Wednesday, June 23, 2004 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: [VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] Next Virginia paper**
Date: 06/23/2004 1:27:57 PM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

Dear Roger:
I will cogitate about participating in the authorship of the Virginia halfpence forgery article. I am very involved with other numismatic work and have to balance my time. I visited my forgery holdings and found four Virginia halfpenny fakes. I will send them to you for study. You can determine the varieties from which they are made. I weighed them but did not do specific gravity. You might do the specific gravity in order to compare them with others. Eric

kbressett@pcisys.net

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Date: 06/21/2004 8:48:15 PM Central Daylight Time
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Reply-to: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

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Subj: **Re: [VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] Next Virginia paper**
Date: 06/23/2004 1:27:57 PM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

Subj: **Next Virginia paper**
Date: 06/23/2004 6:57:26 PM Central Daylight Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@AOL.COM

Hello Eric. I will respond privately to your email. Thank you for planning to send me your four Virginia forgeries!! I will get them back to you safe and sound. I hope you decide to be a co-author on the forgery paper. I think your involvement in the paper will bring a great deal of credibility to it. I will do most of the grunt work, but I need your knowledge and insight to make sure I don't shot myself in the foot. When I return the coins, I will plan to include copies of the most updated attribution guides I have developed to date for the Virginians.
I realize you are involved in many diverse numismatic projects. I repeat that I hope one of them is dictating your memoirs. If secretarial help is a problem, I can take any dictated tapes and have my secretaries transcribe them for you. There is obvious self interest in this on my part (getting the inside track on your numismatic life), but I would keep any dictations completely confidential. In any case, I hope all is well, and I look forward to studying your forgeries. Roger

Subj: **Forgeries**
Date: 07/10/2004 7:43:32 PM Central Daylight Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: ericnumis@aol.com

Hello Eric!!
I hope all is well. I received your four forgeries of Virginia coins today. I have photographed, weighted, gotten diameters and widths on them, but have not done specific gravities yet. I am getting a new specific gravity machine from Buell Ish in the mail any day. I will return the "coins" once I get the specific gravities. I have not started writing this paper yet since I am finishing up a paper with Ray Williams which is an update of my previous Maris Plate paper from the August 2003 CNL. I think that this Maris Plate-I photograph update paper will make anyone having an original Maris Plate-I photograph rush back to reinspect their photograph. I know you have two and I have acknowlegded you in the paper for supplying your observations on your Maris plate-I photographs.

Our Virginia paper on die relationships should be going into the April 2005 issue of CNL. I hope you enjoyed the layout that Gary Trudgen did, which I sent to you and Alan previously. I think the paper will be well received and will serve as a foundation for building interest in the Virginia coinage. All we can do is keep plugging away.

The attribution guides for Virginians are coming along. I am not happy with the reverse "Q" in the seven harp string reverses guide. I list it as having a "low" intersection of the first harp string but it is more in the middle and I think this will confuse users trying to make attributions. I may have to move this to another part of the chart. I seem to have hit a block in developing the last guide for the "with period" obverses, but I plan to work on it again tomorrow. One good thing, I just received in the mail last week a series of high grade photographs of a collection of Virginians which will be a tremendous help in upgrading all the guides. It is from a Canadian collector who has assembled a high grade collection of all the "no period" varieties. I am very pleased to have gotten them but it will be weeks or even months before I will be able to process the photographs into a useable form and replace the poorer images in the attribution guides.

SAINT PAUL
BORUP & DAKES
ONE

I will plan to send you a copy of the guides as they are at this time, when I return you coins. Thank you again for sending me the four Virginia forgeries and I will return to you in the near future.
Best regards, Roger

Subj: **First step**
Date: 5/31/2004 7:33:44 PM Central Standard Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
To: ericnumis@aol.com, vacoinage@aol.com

Gentlemen, I have had a very enjoyable but strenuous weekend preparing the first plate for the Virginia attribution guide. I have attached it to this email in Word. Since I did not develop it in Word, the translation to Word was not exact and the arrow heads came out much bigger than they should be. I am too worn out to provide a guide to the key attribution points throughout the guide, but I think you will understand what I am indicating. If not, email me and I will explain. The chart is only for the 7 harp string reverses (one of the more difficult groups) and now that I have the D verses E dilemma solved, it seems to work, However, proof is in the pudding. Therefore, I would ask you both to use it and see if it works for you. I have halted going through the old auction catalogs until I have guides developed for each group. For me the test will be how they work as I work my way through the auction catalogs. There are hundreds of ways to skin a cat and this guide is only one approach. In our book I would have no problenm with having a number of different guides since some coins will have certain design elements obscured. Alan, if you have been working on one, I would like to see it!! Let me know what you think.
In regard to the die paper, I am still waiting for Syd to get in touch with me. I have left numerous messages on phone and email to no avail. Once we have met, I will let you all know and we can finalize and submit the paper. Roger

Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 07/17/2004 11:55:01 AM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: peck@acnatsci.org

Dear Bob:
I presume you are on vacation. I just received an article on Audubon by the director (John Neal Hoover) of the St. Louis Mercantile Library which was originally written in 1994 and just published for the first time in its 2003-2004 annual report. It is about the journey from St. Louis up the Missouri River to do the Quadrupeds in the 1840s. If you do not receive that annual report I am sure they will send you one on request.
I need a favor which I hope you can do for me easily through one of your Philadelphia contacts. Fairbanks and Ewing was a firm in Philadelphia either making or selling coin scales but I do not know when. It could have been as early as 1850 and as late as 1885. Would you have a friend who could check the directories or other convenient sources for the date of its operation? I would appreciate any address or listing data which may be with any listing. Thanks or tell me to jump in the lake.
Your patient friend. Eric

Subj: **Re: [VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773] Smithsonian**
Date: 06/10/2004 9:50:35 PM Central Daylight Time
From: rogermoore435@yahoo.com
Reply-to: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com
To: VirginiaHalfpenceOf1773@yahoogroups.com

Will do Jim. Thanks for the heads up. Roger

--- JCSpilman <JCSpilman1@Comcast.NET> wrote:
> Roger - -
>
> Check as soon as possible with Gary regarding
> possible
> publication time. I believe that he has CNL booked
> up well into
> 2005 and that may be a problem. I have been
> suggesting to Ray
> W. that C4 change their Newsletter format to a
> standard 8.5"x11"
> so that it can handle conventional layouts. If they
> did that the
> C4 could also be a candidate for the Virginia paper.
> As it stands
> today - not a chance.
>
> Jim/CNLF
>
> ========
>
> Roger Moore wrote:
>
> > Great information Jim. I wish they could send me
> a
> > photo of the coin that they are concerned about.
> I
> > would bet it is a reverse V which was not listed
> in
> > Newman's work. I spent an incredible evening with
> Syd
> > Martin last night. I photographed all his
> Virginians
> > and he has some beautiful coins. We talked
> Virginia
> > coins for four straight hours. The primary
> success of
> > the evening was for us to prove that the 14 and 15
> > obverses are the same variety. This will need more
> > work and we will probably be able to produce a
> short
> > paper when we figure out how they were made

> (re-etched
> > die or a lapped die, or just die damage). In any
> case
> > we also confirmed that the 15 is a no-period
> > variety!!! I have asked Eric why he used the 15
> > designation on this coin in his Museum X notes and
> am
> > awaiting an answer. Did he realize that it was a
> > no-period when he made the designation?? The dot
> after
> > the S is a die break.
> > I will be putting the finishing touches on the die
> > interlock paper next week and will post in our
> group
> > files for publication on the internet and send to
> Gary
> > Trudgen for possible publication in the CNL. Syd
> also
> > had Alan's 28-N with him which is extremely rare.
> I
> > have it photographed now also. All in all it has
> been
> > a wonderful week for Virginians!!. I will try to
> put
> > some of the better images in our file folders when
> I
> > get a chance to process them (probably a few
> weeks).
> >
> > Roger
> >
> >
> > --- JCSpilman <JCSpilman1@Comcast.NET> wrote:
> > > Roger - et al - FYI - see attachment
> > >
> > >
> > > ATTACHMENT part 2 application/rtf
> > > x-mac-type=5736424E; x-mac-creator=4D535744;
> > > name=Smithsonian.VA.1773.doc
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